

PLANTING IDEAS

September 2009
Volume 27, Issue 1

*A County Publication of the
Boone County Soil & Water Conservation District*



FY 2010 OFFERS NEW COST-SHARE PRACTICES

The Soil and Water Conservation Program has added many new practices that address water quality to the slate of practices offered this year. These practices do not require excessive erosion levels to qualify since the intent of the practices is to improve or maintain water quality.

New practices offered include:

- Well Decommissioning
- Streambank Stabilization
- Use Exclusion
- Stream Protection
- Spring Development
- Nutrient Management
- Pest Management
- Waste Utilization
- Manure Transfer
- Incinerator (agricultural only)
- Composting Facility (agricultural only)
- Irrigation System, Sprinkler Replacement
- Irrigation Water Conveyance
- Timber Harvest Plans
- Forest Plantation
- Field Border
- Riparian Forest Buffer
- Filter Strip

Another major development in the practice offerings is the changes to the Grazing Management practices. Formally known as the DSP-3 Planned Grazing System, the new practices are broken out by function. Now we have a DSP 3.1-Grazing System Water Development, DSP 3.2-Grazing System Water Distribution, DSP 3.3-Grazing System Fence, DSP 3.4-Grazing System Lime, and DSP 3.5-Grazing System Seed. These practices are available to anyone wishing to develop or expand his grazing system. Previous participation in the state cost-share program does not prevent a landowner from utilizing these practices to improve or add to his system. Previous participation in an EQIP grazing system does not prevent a landowner from utilizing these practices to improve or add to his system provided all contract items in the EQIP contract have been installed. The DSP 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 can be installed concurrently or separately. The requirement is that the NRCS spec for 528-Prescribed Grazing must be met within three years of the first claim. Further modifications can continue to be made. The DSP 3.4 and 3.5 are practices used to lime fields or to interseed legumes. These new practices can only be applied to an operational grazing system that meets the NRCS spec 528.

Other practices that have been used in the special project areas of Boone County and can now be used throughout the county are Well Decommissioning, Streambank Stabilization, Stream Protection (alternative water), and Use Exclusion. Of course, all the practices on the above list are available.

There is no waiting list for these new water quality practices nor for the Grazing Management practices. Contact the office for a field visit from the technician to get started on your plan. County cost-share dollars have been assigned by category so sign up as soon as possible. If you do not think there is enough money allotted to the county for your project (see page 3), please contact the office to see if additional funds are available.

COST-SHARE PRACTICES LISTED ON PAGE 3

**Boone County Soil and Water
Conservation District**

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Statement of frequency: Biannual
Mailed in Columbia, Missouri

Authorized organization's name & address:

**Boone County Soil & Water
Conservation District**
Parkade Center, Suite 213E
601 Business Loop 70 West
Columbia, MO 65203
573-875-5540 ext. 3

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Closed 12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.

www.swcd.mo.gov/boone

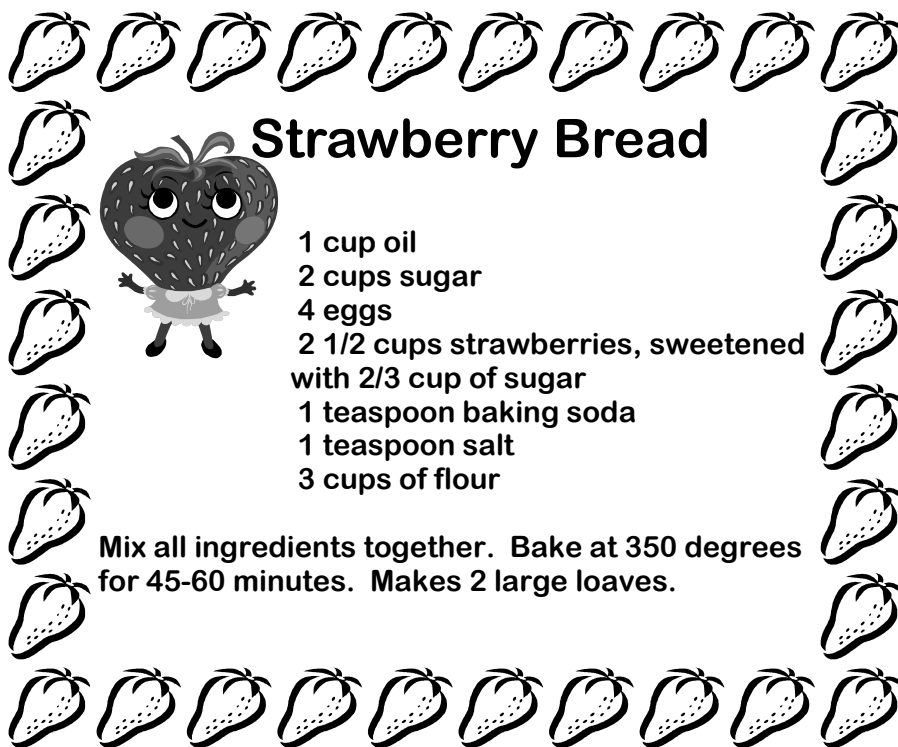
Funding for information/education activities are
provided in part by the Parks, Soils and Water
Sales Tax through the Missouri Department of
Natural Resources.

Congratulations!

The Columbia FFA and the Boone County 4-H Teams took top honors at the Mid-America Grassland Evaluation Contest held in Springfield June 9th-10th. The Columbia FFA Team members were Brady Chasteen, Will Garrett and Russ Chambers. Kody Henneke, Josh Remus and Grant Schooley made up the Boone County 4-H Team. Larry Henneke was the advisor for both teams. Additional honors go to Brady Chasteen for finishing fourth in the individual FFA scoring along with Kody Henneke and Josh Remus for placing third and fifth in the individual 4-H scoring.

The objective of the contest is to train future farmers in more sustainable ways of managing grasslands for the benefit of both livestock and wildlife. The competition has four segments: grassland condition, wildlife habitat, soil interpretation, and plant identification. Contestants have 25 minutes to judge each of the four segments based on numerous factors such as: amount of grazing pressure, plant composition, vegetation growth cycle, seasonal nutritional needs of livestock, distance of plot vegetation from other wildlife habitat, surface texture, soil permeability, and best types of management practices.

The contest is sponsored by the MO Forage and Grassland Council, MO Dept. of Conservation, NRCS, University of MO Extension, and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts.



Strawberry Bread

- 1 cup oil
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2 1/2 cups strawberries, sweetened with 2/3 cup of sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 cups of flour

Mix all ingredients together. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-60 minutes. Makes 2 large loaves.

COST-SHARE PRACTICES OFFERED FOR FY 2010

Grazing Management	Practices	Allocation = \$51,150	Limits: 75% cost-share	
	DSP 3.1	Grazing System Water Development	max \$95/ac	
	DSP 3.2	Grazing System Water Distribution	max \$85/ac	
	DSP 3.3.	Grazing System Fence	max \$60/ac	
	DSP 3.4	Grazing System Lime	max \$50/ac	
	DSP 3.5	Grazing System Seed (interseeding legumes)	max \$40/ac	
	DSP 2	Permanent Vegetative Cover Enhancement	max \$60/ac	
Groundwater Protection	Practices	Allocation = \$2,200	Limits: 75% cost-share	
	N 316	Incinerator		
	N 317	Composting Facility (agricultural only)		
	N 351	Well Decommissioning (Incentive Payment)	\$400/well	
	N 574	Spring Development		
Irrigation Management	Practices	Allocation = \$2,750	Limits: 75% cost-share	
	N 430	Irrigation Water Conveyance		
	N 442	Irrigation System, Sprinkler (replacement sprinklers)	max 4 pivots	
Nutrient Management	Practices	Allocation = \$0*	Limits	
	N 590	Nutrient Management (Incentive Payment)	max \$4500/Practice	\$30/ac *
	N 633	Waste Utilization	max \$5250/Practice	\$35/ac *
	N 634	Manure Transfer		\$1/cu yd *
*Payable after 1 st year of management, 3 year plan				
Pest Management	Practices	Allocation = \$0*	Limits	
	N 595	Pest Management (Incentive Payment)	max \$2500/Practice	\$15/ac *
*Payable after 1 st year of management, 3 year plan				
Sensitive Areas	Practices	Allocation = \$3,300	Limits: 75% cost-share	
	N 386	Field Border		
	N 391	Riparian Forest Buffer		
	N 393	Filter Strip		
	WQ 10	Stream Protection		
Streambank Erosion	Practices	Allocation = \$1,100	Limits: 75% cost-share	
	C 650	Streambank Stabilization	max \$5000/Practice	
Sheet/Rill & Gully Erosion	Practices	Allocation = \$159,583.72	Limits: 75% cost-share	
W a t e r L i s t	DSL-1	Permanent Vegetative Cover Establishment		
	DSL-2	Permanent Vegetative Cover Improvement		
	DSL-4	Terrace Systems w/waterway outlet		
	DSL-5	Diversions		
	DSL-11	Critical Area-Permanent Vegetative Cover (PVC)		
	DSL-111	Critical Area PVC-Confined Animal Feedlots	max \$2500/Practice, \$500/ac	
	DSL-15	No-Till Systems (new systems ONLY) (Incentive Payment)	max \$600/Practice	\$15/ac
	DSL-44	Terrace Systems w/Tile		
	DWC-1	Water Impoundment Reservoir	max \$10,000/Practice	
	DWP-1	Sediment Retention Control Structures		
	DWP-3	Sod Waterway		
	N 332	Contour Buffer Strips		
	N 585	Contour Strip-cropping		
Woodland Protection	Practices	Allocation = \$935	Limits: 75% cost-share	
	C 100	Timber Harvest Plans (Incentive Payment)	max \$3000/Practice	\$15-20/ac
	DFR-4	Forest Plantation		
	DFR-5	Woodland Protection-Livestock Exclusion		
	N 472	Use Exclusion	max \$6000/Practice	

FY 2009 End-of-Year Cost-Share Report

JULY 1, 2008 – JUNE 30, 2009

Boone County Cost-Share

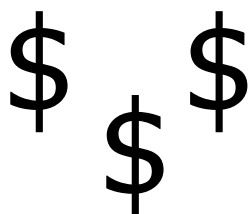
2	DFR-5	Woodland Protection.....
11	DSL-4/44	Terrace System/System w/Tile.....
3	DSL-5	Diversion.....
1	DWP-1	Sediment Retention Structure.....
1	DSP-3.2	Managed Intensive Grazing Systems.....
1	DSP-3.3	Managed Intensive Grazing System Pond Only....

Totals

C-S DOLLARS	TONS SAVED	C-S \$/TON
\$ 4,863.06	n/a	n/a
\$73,037.59	3,480	\$ 20.99
\$22,089.43	1,350	\$ 16.36
\$ 3,555.38	130	\$ 27.35
\$ 1,776.50	n/a	n/a
\$ 744.72	n/a	n/a
\$32,480.17	1080	\$ 30.07
\$ 138,546.85	6040	\$ 22.94

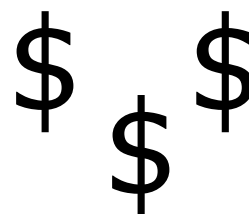
Fiscal Year 2009 ended June 30, 2009. Boone County landowners claimed 69.6% of the cost-share money available in cost-share funding for the year. While this is not as high a percentage as in the past, given the extremely wet conditions this past winter and spring, we are fortunate to have reached that milestone. The allotment of cost-share funds for FY 2010 has been increased to \$244,157 with the addition of water quality practices to the slate of offerings. We are contacting landowners on the waiting list to notify them of the availability of funds for sheet and rill and gully erosion. If a landowner is unable to build when his name comes up on the list, he will be dropped to the bottom and the next person will be contacted. The new water quality improvement practices have previously only been available in the special project areas. Changes made to the Soil and Water Conservation Program through the legislature have now made those practices available countywide. **We do not have a waiting list for these new practices so anyone interested should contact the office right away.** Each practice category has designated funding. Eligibility is still limited to land in agricultural production whether it be crop, livestock, or hay.

A waiting list for cost-share funds is maintained. To be put on the waiting list a technician must evaluate the site and determine that it is eligible for cost-share. The current waiting period for funding is 2 to 3 years though that can vary if those on the waiting list ahead of you decide to drop to the bottom. New DNR rules require that the landowner complete a Vendor Input form in order to supply information for a 1099-G. A Vendor ACH/EFT form must also be completed to provide information for a direct deposit of the cost-share claim payment when the project has been completed. These forms must be completed and submitted to the SWCD prior to approval of the cost-share contract (application). When funds are available, contracts (applications) will be approved only when the landowner/contractor is within two weeks of starting. Landowners with approved contracts (applications) will then have 60 days to complete the practice and submit the necessary paperwork for claims. It is important to plan crop rotations in conjunction with fund availability. Preparations should also be made to meet the requirements for the Indiana Bat Habitat protection period. Bat habitat trees may be cleared during the period October 1—March 31. Clearing is not a cost-sharable component. However, failure to comply with the protection period will result in ineligibility for federal or state funds.



PAYDAY BARS

3 Tablespoons butter or margarine
1 pkg. peanut butter chips
1 can sweetened condensed milk
2 cups mini marshmallows
16 oz. dry roasted/salted peanuts



Melt butter and peanut butter chips over low heat. Stir in milk until smooth, then stir in marshmallows until melted. Put 1/2 of the peanuts in the bottom of a greased 9 x 13 pan. Spread marshmallow mixture over nuts. Sprinkle with remaining peanuts and press into mixture. Chill in refrigerator and then cut into bars.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP) SIGN-UP ENDS SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

Missouri farmers and ranchers may apply for benefits under the new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced.

Dwaine Gelnar, Assistant State Conservationist, says that while the program is available on a continuous basis, the first cutoff for ranking purposes is September 30th. He encourages farmers who think they are eligible for CSP benefits to begin the application process.

CSP is a voluntary conservation program designed to encourage agricultural and forestry producers to adopt additional conservation practices and improve, maintain and manage existing ones. It replaces the Conservation Security Program (also called CSP) which was previously available on a watershed basis.

"The CSP changed dramatically in the 2008 Farm Bill," Gelnar says. "The new program should appeal to our diverse customers and offer them an equal chance to participate. I hope that agricultural and forestry producers in Missouri take full advantage of its benefits."

To apply for CSP individual producers, legal entities, and Indian tribes are asked to use a self-screening checklist to determine whether the program is suitable for them or their operations. The checklist is available online and at NRCS field offices.

After the self-screening, producers' current and proposed conservation activities will be ranked by NRCS, which also will conduct on-site field verifications.

Individual producers, legal entities, and Indian tribes must meet several requirements to obtain a CSP contract: they must be listed as the operator in the USDA farm records management system for the operation being offered for enrollment; they must document that they control the land for the term of the contract and include all eligible land in their entire operation in that contract; they must comply with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions; and they must comply with Adjusted Gross Income provisions.

Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie, improved pastureland, rangeland, and non-industrial private forestland. Land enrolled in the Conservation Security Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Grasslands Reserve Program, and Wetlands Reserve Program are not eligible for the Conservation Stewardship Program. However, all contracts under the old CSP will be honored.

For more information about CSP visit <http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CSP/csp.html>, contact your local NRCS office, or **attend the workshop that is scheduled for September 16th at 6:30 pm at the Boone County University Extension Office. Please RSVP at 573-875-5540 ext 3 by September 14th if you are planning to attend the workshop.**



SOIL TESTING AND FERTILIZING PASTURES

Kevin Monckton, District Technician

One of the best tools for pasture management is taking soil tests. Most producers have been very conscientious about taking soil tests on crop ground but not nearly as consistent at testing pasture. A soil test should be taken every two to four years on each pasture.



Soil fertility is a problem on many Boone County pastures. Soil tests will show if lime and fertilizer are needed and the correct amounts to apply. The correct cropping code and projected yields should be used when submitting these soil tests. Most pastures will either be cool season grass pasture (fescue, orchardgrass, smooth brome, and timothy) or cool season grass/legumes (clovers, alfalfa and lespedeza) in Boone County. There are probably also a few warm season grass pastures in the county comprised of Eastern Gamagrass, Switch Grass, Bermuda Grass, Big or Little Bluestem, and Indiangrass. A grass/legume stand will take much less nitrogen than a stand of grass only. In many cases the warm season grasses will also take less fertility than the cool season grasses.

The timing of lime and fertilizer applications is very important. If you are thinking of interseeding legumes, you need to add lime six months ahead of the interseeding. This will allow time for the lime to be activated and develop the correct soil pH for the legumes to get a good start in order to compete with the grass.



The timing of nitrogen application is also critical. If you are interseeding or trying to promote legumes that are already in the stand, nitrogen should not be applied in the spring because it will promote the grass growth and crowd out the legumes. Nitrogen application in the late summer can be very beneficial for fall grass production, especially stockpiling fescue for winter grazing, and should not have an adverse effect on the legumes.

Good pasture management hinges on proper soil sampling, assessing current fertility levels, and developing fertilizer recommendations based on planned production yields and usage. The correct cropping code should always be used to give the correct recommendation for the soil test and yield goal. Landowners should apply fertilizer and lime according to the soil test recommendations in order to achieve the most good for the dollars spent. Soil testing over a number of years will show trends of fertility condition in these pastures.

Tips for Proper Soil Testing

- ⇒ Tools: Coring device (core sampler, auger, or spade), plastic bucket, small box or bag, map of field
- ⇒ Mark sampling plan on map of field
- ⇒ Discard organic duff on top of soil
- ⇒ Put 6"-7" soil core in plastic sampling bucket (discard soil below 6"-7")
- ⇒ Mix 15-20 cores from the area to be sampled
- ⇒ Put about 1.5 cups of the mixture from the sampling bucket into a soil sample box, plastic bag, or plastic container
- ⇒ Submit sample and cropping/yield plan to the Missouri University Extension Center or testing lab

Missouri Department of Conservation Cost-Share Program

Mark McCulloch, MDC Private Land Conservationist

For any landowner wanting to improve their habitat for quail, deer, turkey, or native warm season grasses, money may be a concern. This article is a continuation of last issue's article on "Restoring Rare and Endangered Habitat". That article discussed the federal cost-share programs. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), through its Private Land Division, offers a cost-share program also.

MDC cost-share can also assist with projects like the Porath's. The big difference is that MDC (state) practices have to start after July 1st and end by June 1st of the following year. There is also a limit of \$4,000/year per landowner payment. MDC's cost-share is largely based on a flat rate per unit (acre, feet, structure, etc.). A few practices are paid at a 50%-75% cost-share rate. If you happen to live in a Quail Focus Area or an Area of Conservation Concern the cost-share can be 75%.

A few of the more popular practices used in Boone and Audrain counties are:

- Alternative Watering Systems (50%-75%)
- Early Successional Management-Quail Cover (Flat Rate)
- Fencing (Flat Rate)
- Herbaceous Vegetation Control (Flat Rate)
- Herbaceous Vegetation Establishment (50%-75%)
- Prescribed Burning (Flat Rate/acre)
- Tree/shrub Establishment (Flat Rate/tree or shrub)
- Woodland Improvement (Flat Rate/acre)
- Invasive Shrub Control (Flat Rate: light-moderate-heavy)

In the last article Wayne and Linda Porath restored a glade/savanna habitat on their back forty. MDC cost-share can provide money for the old stand-by manual labor chain sawing or we can hire a mechanical operator (clipper or dozer) if the site is stable enough to allow it. This is a per acre cost not to exceed \$4,000 per project/landowner/year. When the Poraths were ready to burn their glade slash and stimulate the native grasses and forbs the following year, they decided to contact the MDC Private Land Conservationist to sign up for the Prescribed Burning cost-share.

There are more practices from which to choose. Each practice has its own requirements that need to be met before the project and money can be set aside.

The Private Land Conservationist has final approval on all funds spent. Every practice, once completed, has to be inspected for compliance and upon approval for payment will start a maintenance requirement that lasts ten years.



For more information, call Mark McCulloch, your local Private Land Conservationist, at 573-875-5540 ext. 3



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 16	CSP Workshop, University of MO Extension Office, 6:30 p.m.
September 30	CSP Sign-up ends.
October 6	SWCD Board Mtg., 9:00 a.m.
October 7	Mock Envirothon, Runge Center, Jefferson City
October 12	Columbus Day Holiday, office closed
November 1	Daylight Saving Time ends. Turn clocks back 1 hour.
November 3	SWCD Board Mtg., 12:30 p.m.
November 11	Veteran's Day Holiday, office closed
November 26	Thanksgiving Holiday, office closed
December 25	Christmas Holiday, office closed
January 1	New Year's Day Holiday, office closed